



Well received

FIRSTLY, thanks for getting involved in the **BEN** survey; we're delighted with the huge response so far.



I know many of you who were at ABEE last week indicated that they had either sent in the survey or of their intention to do so.

So for those of you who are yet to do it, we would love to know what you think about **Business Events News**, so please take this opportunity to help us out with feedback.

Do include any constructive comments because it's the only way we can bring you a better newsletter.

It only takes a couple of minutes to complete.

Get it in by 31 August and include your details to win a \$100 gift card.

Access the link [here](#) for the **Business Events News** survey then head to **Page 4** for a photo page of Sebel Pier One's 'Business with Class' promotion event, at which the winner was announced - *Jill*.

Best of British to you!



IT was a distinctive British lunch when Aussie Paul Gauger, head of press & PR at VisitBritain and long time London resident, flew into Sydney to host a lunch on Wednesday at Arras in Clarence Street.

He was joined by Kristen Angus, communications manager Australia, Kersti Martin VisitEngland, Su Ramanathan, regional manager, Asia & the Middle East and Mark Haynes,

regional marketing manager (all pictured above).

An enthusiastic group of Anglophiles were given an insiders guide to Britain's latest events and new experiences, including the idea of using a visit to the UK as a platform to the Rugby World Cup 2013, the Commonwealth Games 2014 in Glasgow and Homecoming Scotland 2014.

"Britain," Gauger said, "is the most visited destination in Europe," with key activities named as museums, art galleries, parks and gardens and villages such as those in York, Canterbury and Lincoln.

Revealing a 34% increase in visitors from Australia over the past year and just under one million Aussie visitors, "it is our fourth most valuable market and best in terms of long haul," he said.

"By 2020 we can expect to welcome 2.2 million Australian visitors."

East Yorkshire born, Arras head chef and owner Adam Humphrey presented the guests with some remarkable takes on British food such as a delicious crab bread and butter pudding entrée and Lancashire hotpot main.

Passage to India

A MAJOR Indian conference, the 2013 Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas Convention, is to be held in Sydney over three days from 10-12 November.

An initiative of The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs of the Government of India, Shri Vayalar Ravi, Hon. Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs said that the objective of the event is to reach out to those members of the community who have been unable to participate in the annual PBD in India, and to provide a platform for the Indian community in Australia and the Pacific to contribute to the relationship between countries of the region and India.

For registration details and program visit the website at www.pbdsydney2013.com.au.

Prior to the conference 'Temptation Reloaded' described as "Bollywood like you have never experienced before" will descend upon Sydney on 7 October, as part of the Parramasala Festival in Parramatta.

The visually spectacular event will be the biggest Bollywood production Australia has ever seen, with India's No.1 ranked film star Shahrukh Khan headlining this milestone event.

EcoXpo in Rosehill

AUSTRALIA'S premier environmental and sustainable forum event, EcoXpo, returns to Sydney for the fourth year, promising even more exhibitors, keynote speakers & information.

Being held from 20-22 September at Rosehill Gardens Racecourse, founder/director of EcoXpo, Aymeric Maudous said, "We started with 20 exhibitors in 2010, and today EcoXpo has more than tripled in size.

"A gathering place for like minded businesses and people, our aim at EcoXpo is to educate & share incredible ideas, products and services that aim to improve the way we live and conserve our natural environment."

CTW-Asia Pacific sponsorship

SOME of the foremost brands in corporate travel, including Abacus International, Travelport and Frasers Hospitality are part of the sponsorship line-up at this year's Corporate Travel World (CTW) Asia-Pacific expo being held 1-3 October in Bangkok.

The trade show, which has been established for 16 years, has a hosted program of 150 handpicked corporate travel managers from diverse industries across Asia-Pacific.

Ooi Peng Ee, gm, TTG Events, commenting on the benefits of being a CTW Asia-Pacific sponsor said, "Our sponsorship packages go beyond a single facet of

engagement to include value-added benefits and privileges that will certainly stretch any CTW Asia-Pacific sponsor's investment dollar.

"Our sponsorship packages help sponsors to engage our CTW Asia-Pacific delegates, and enable them to be better acquainted with the sponsors' brand, product and services."

For the last 10 years, CTW Asia-Pacific has been co-locating with MICE event IT&CMA.

Both events will be held at the Bangkok Convention Centre, CentralWorld.

Interested companies can email ctw@ttgasia.com for packages.



business events news

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Culinaria cuisine

KUALA Lumpur Convention Centre recently launched Culinaria to both define and differentiate its culinary services from the competition.

Culinaria means "creative cross-cultural cuisine," which is unique, love and inventive mastery to fulfill and nourish.

The Culinaria brand expands on the unique selling points of Malaysia, from its colourful multicultural diversity to progressive nation realities, which is aligned to the Centre's tagline of "Where commerce, culture, colour converge."



AIME embraces business travel

WITH more than 100 people from across the travel and hospitality sectors in attendance, Jacqui Timmins, exhibition director, AIME and CIBTM, addressed the inaugural TMS Platinum Networking Night, at the Sofitel

Wentworth last week, with the message that AIME is embracing the opportunity to expand into business travel.

A major sponsor of the event, together with TMS Asia-Pacific, Sabre, Breakaway Travel Club, **Travel Daily** and **Business Events News**, Timmins said AIME welcomes buyers from the corporate TMC sector to talk to suppliers.

"Our sponsorship of this event



Jacqui Timmins is pictured with Helene Taylor, TMS Asia Pacific

is to look for a new audience to speak to," she revealed.

"In 2012, 42% of Hosted Buyers advised us that they organise business travel and 15% were corporate buyers, revealing the potential for an increased focus on business travel at AIME.

"Adding business travel to the event this year has allowed us to attract a wider range of buyers and visitors, including those responsible for the procurement and management of business travel programs, and increase the business opportunities for exhibitors."

The networking evening provided an opportunity for people to catch up, make new contacts and to enjoy one another's company.

The first time proved such a success, keep your eyes open for the next one.

Want to see who went to the event? - go to www.facebook.com/traveldaily.



STATISTICS reveal that the people of Darwin are the hardest working of any other Australian capital city and that Northern Territorians have the highest employment to population ratio in the country at 71.6%.

Darwinians also work the longest hours than any other Australian capital city, according to Ram Vemuri, head of Charles Darwin University School of Business.

People, he said go to the Northern Territory for a job, not a holiday.

"They come for a job, stay on for a job, and if they don't have a job anymore, they leave.

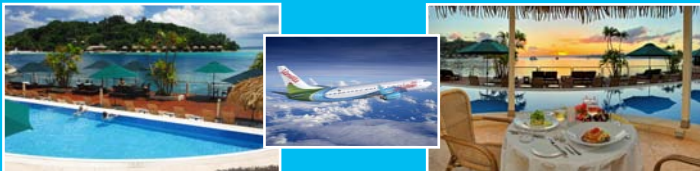
"In Melbourne or in Sydney you'll have people who have been there for quite some time, looking for jobs but they can't find a job, and they're still hanging around in Sydney.

"But Darwin is not just fly-in fly-out - it's job seek-in, job seek-out."

Adding to the mix, Darwin has the youngest population of all capital cities where most people work in the construction industry or the public sector.

Darwin also has the largest percentage of workers putting in 49 hours or more per week - 19.56%.

WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO VANUATU



During the months of August and September, **BEN** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win an amazing holiday for two people to Vanuatu, courtesy of **Air Vanuatu and the Grand Hotel & Casino**.

The prize includes Air Vanuatu return airfares from Syd/Bne/Mel to Port Vila, and five nights accommodation in a Harbour View Room including breakfast daily at the Grand Hotel and Casino.

Air Vanuatu offers daily flights from Australia, just over 3 hours away. Complimentary inflight service and the friendliest smiles in the Pacific!

Grand Hotel and Casino offers a relaxing yet sophisticated setting, in a prime waterfront location in the heart of Port Vila. The hotel is central to Port Vila's business and entertainment district and just 200 metres to the markets. The Grand's business facilities cater well for small groups and conferences. With water views from every room, the hotel also features an outdoor pool, Aromessence Day Spa, Crystals Restaurant and Hemisphere Bar. The Grand Casino also offers the very best in gaming facilities.

Q4. How many rooms and suites does the Grand Hotel and Casino have?

Email each of the daily questions and the final creative response by Friday 20 September to:

vanuatu@businesseventsnews.com.au

Click here for terms & conditions

Hint: www.grandvanuatu.com



Outstage, Outrigger

OUTRIGGER Surfers Paradise is offering a last minute special for conferences booked during November.

Book an event with Outrigger during this period and receive a discounted delegate rate of \$55 per person.

Combining modern accommodation with expansive conference facilities, Outrigger Surfers Paradise caters for up to 600 delegates theatre style across two levels of conference space and is excellent for trade shows, product launches and large performances.

An ideal way to have delegates ready for a productive day, international wellness specialists 'Life's a Gym' can provide a set of exercises that are easy to integrate and maintain at any level of fitness.

For bookings and enquiries contact Sophie directly on 07 5579 1088 or email sophie.secombe@outrigger.com.au.





CONTACT US:

Publisher
Bruce Piper
Editor
Jill Varley
Contributors
Chantel Housler
Advertising:
advertising@businessesnews.com.au

P: 1300 799 220
F: 1300 799 221

PO Box 1010 Epping, NSW,
1710 Business Events
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Food for thought

LUXPERIENCE'S Thought Leaders event at Sydney Town Hall being held on 1 September and part of the Luxperience B2B luxury travel trade show, will have its opening addressed by George Souris MP, the New South Wales Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister of the Arts.

The program, which is dedicated to the latest trends, predictions and insights in top-end travel, acts as a thought-provoking curtain raiser to three days of buyer-seller travel trade appointments, which follows on 2-4 September.

"We are privileged to have Minister Souris join us," said Helen Logas, ceo of Luxperience.

"The Minister recognises the importance of experiential travel, innovation in tourism and iconic events," she said.

Hawaii takes a jump

AT an industry function held at the Four Seasons Sydney on Tuesday night Hawaii Tourism's MICE account manager, based in Sydney, Holly Ballard spoke about the rise in Australian MICE visitors to Hawaii, an increase of 10%.

She also spoke of their new MICE website - meethawaii.com - and of the support the office in Sydney can give event organisers planning an event.

"We are seeing a lot more MICE business coming to the islands and while the Aussie dollar may not be above parity anymore, we are a very cost effective destination," she said.

Cathy Favalaro, regional director of sales, Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts with four properties in Hawaii, on Maui and Lana'i said, "This is where the true Hawaii exists.

"For instance, on Lana'i we have two properties where organisers can do a whole of resort buyout."

Supporting the event was Maui Jim, the fashionable sunglasses brand whose meteoric rise from a start-up business 12 years ago on the island of Maui, is now a world recognised brand and a desirable

corporate gift.

Lawrence Sattrukalsinghe, Hawaiian Airlines' new bdm said the airline, with a new strategy on MICE marketing and a new team, is ramping up efforts to build and maintain the MICE business.

"We now have a groups division, with three flights a week out of Brisbane on B767-300ER aircraft and daily out of Sydney on the A330-200, with seating for 294 passengers.

"Don't forget the generous 32kg baggage allowance," he reminded.

Modern marriage

IN recognition of New Zealand's legalisation of same sex marriage, openly gay, Modern Family



actor Jesse Tyler Ferguson who plays Mitchell in the series will be on board an Air New Zealand domestic flight today, to witness the first ever, same sex marriage to take place at 30,000 feet.

Follow the festivities #AirNZLove.



Getting to Know: Kranji, Singapore

by: *Jill Varley*

Singapore is the last place on earth you would expect to support a farming community. That it does, and a mere 40-minute drive northwest of the CBD, in Kranji, comes as a bit of a surprise.

In fact, so little is known is this kampong area that even Singaporeans are unaware of its existence.

It's a way of life that of the antithesis of that found on Orchard Road, Marina Bay or Sentosa Island.

Here you can find a dedicated biodynamic vegetable farm, Bollywood Veggies, committed to producing healthy food, looking after the environment and educating school children.

Other farms can be visited on regular Kranji Countryside farm tours, which start from Kranji MRT station and take in properties such as Hay Dairies, Hausmann Aquarium Fish Farm, and the Jurong Frog Farm.

Ideal as a partner program idea, visitors can dine in farm cafes, pick the produce, learn about agriculture, do a cooking course or enjoy the tranquility of the countryside by staying in a health farm or farm resort.

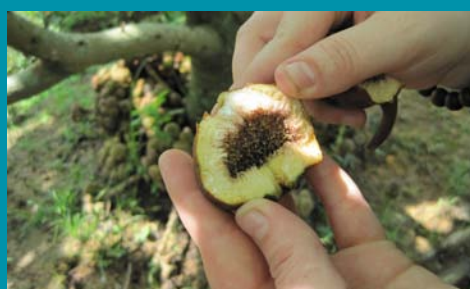
Bollywood Veggies is a highlight, a business owned and run by Ivy Singh Lim, the area's mover and shaker.

A woman known as the 'gentle warrior gardener', Ivy is not afraid to tell-it-how-it-is, a style that belies the fact that she is a nurturer of the older and less fortunate among us.

A 35-minute farm tour through herb gardens, veggie patches and fruit trees ends at Bollywood's well equipped Warrior's Kitchen where farm to table cooking classes are held. Farm visitors can dine in the well-patronised Poison Ivy bistro, a name Ivy laughingly explains was chosen because it made for a fun topic when customers ask about the food.

It's worth checking out.

So find out more information online at www.yoursingapore.com.



Business with Class at The Sebel Pier One Sydney

THE Sebel Pier One Sydney hosted a gorgeous soiree last Wednesday night in its stunning new function room “Water @ Pier One”.

The occasion was to announce the winner of their conference promotion “Business With Class” which ran from January to July in celebration of the opening of eight new conference rooms, which make up the conference centre “Water @ Pier One”.

The lucky winner was Jennifer Sellers from Sonic Healthcare and she was presented with two return Pearl Business Class tickets, anywhere in the world, flying on Etihad Airways.

The Champagne flowed, the jazz trio played and the guests were all enjoying the most amazing views of The Opera House, the Bridge and the lights of Luna Park from the Sebel’s state of the art conference centre.

Jennifer Sellers was there for the presentation and was speechless when her name appeared on the big screen as she was announced as the winner.

Special guests included Luisa Pastrello, Etihad General Manager for Australia & NZ and Michael Sheridan, General Manager, The Sebel Pier One Sydney.

For conference enquiries at the Sebel Pier One Sydney email the hotel on H8765-SB@accor.com or call 02 8298 9999.



ABOVE: Sally Irwin, Etihad with Adriana Perabo from The Sebel Pier One.

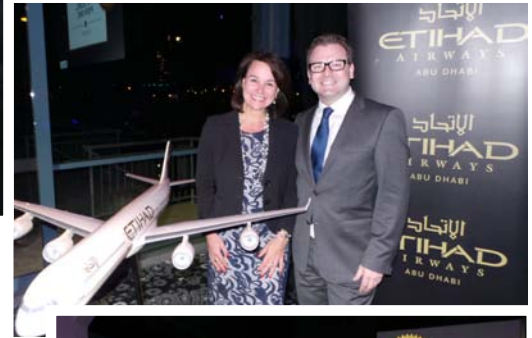


ABOVE: Michael Sheridan and his team - Christopher James, Kate Carr, David Lowe and Mitchell Gunn drawing the promotion winners name at the Sebel Pier One Sydney.

BELOW: Nadine Nowak, Cheryl Cook, Priyanka Sharma and Sally Irwin, marketing and public relations for Etihad.

ABOVE: Luisa Pastrello, Etihad; David Lowe, The Sebel Pier One; Jennifer Sellers, Sonic Healthcare and Michael Sheridan, The Sebel Pier One.

BELOW: Luisa and David with a replica of the Etihad A340-600 aircraft.



ABOVE: Michael Sheridan, gm, The Sebel Pier One Sydney with Angela O'Connor, Accor Asia Pacific and Jill Varley, *Business Events News*.

BELOW: Jade Wilkins, Michael Sheridan and Steve Coombes from Event Connect.



BELOW: A very happy Jennifer Seller with David Lowe from The Sebel Pier One.



ABOVE: Matthew Holmes, Leighton Contractors, Jade Wilkins, conference coordinator, The Sebel Pier One and guests from Eden Corporate Travel.



ABOVE: is the layout of the main room theatre style and at the top of the page, the same room set out for a cocktail event.